

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1433
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15213

USOECD

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, TU, OECD
SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS PRIOR TO TURKISH CONSORTIUM
MEETING MAY 17 AND HANDLING OF TURKISH DEBT ISSUE:
REPORTED RESIGNATION OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO OECD

REF: A) PARIS 15061, B) PARIS 15169, C) PARIS 15092

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL WOOTTON HAS REPORTED TO
US PRIVATELY THAT TURKISH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
OECD (AYTUR) HAS INDICATED THAT HE HAS SUBMITTED HIS
RESIGNATION TO TURKISH AUTHORITIES. AYTUR HAS EXPLAIN-
ED TO WOOTTON THAT RESIGNATION IS MOTIVATED BY HIS
DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE CHANGE IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS
REFLECTING SOFTENING ATTITUDE OF TURKISH FINANCE
MINISTER MUEZZINOGLU. AYTUR MAINTAINS THAT WHILE
MUEZZINOGLU IS INSISTING ON SOME COSMETIC CHANGES OF
FORM IN THE HANDLING OF THE TURKISH DEBT RESCHEDULING
PROBLEM, THE FINANCE MINISTER IS WILLING TO ACCEPT
WHAT IS BASICALLY A DISGUISED PARIS CLUB FORMAT.
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AYTUR FEELS THAT TURKEY SHOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS KIND
OF DICTATION FROM THE CREDITORS. RATHER AYTUR INSISTS
THAT TURKS AS OECD MEMBER SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO HAVE
DEBT MATTERS HANDLED AS PREVIOUSLY IN THE TURKISH
CONSORTIUM CONTEXT AND IN A WAY IN WHICH NO SHARP
DISTINCTION IS MADE BETWEEN DEBT RESCHEDULING ON THE
ONE HAND AND AID ON THE OTHER HAND.

2. WOOTTON REPORTS FURTHER THAT ACCORDING TO AYTUR THERE IS DISAGREEMENT WITHIN GOT ON THE TURKISH ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CONSORTIUM AND DEBT RESCHEDULING, WITH THE FOREIGN AND PLANNING MINISTERS BEING OPPOSED TO FINANCE MINISTER'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR AYTUR IS MERCURIAL AND UNPREDICTABLE PERSON AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS REPORTED RESIGNATION SUBMITTAL IS AND HOW DEEP-SEATED DIVISIONS IN TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN FACT ARE. OBVIOUSLY FORTH-COMING CONSORTIUM MEETING ON MAY 17 AND DEBT RESCHEDULING EXERCISE WILL NOT BE EASY. IN ADDITION TO PROBLEMS POSED BY BRIDGING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CREDITORS AND GOT (PERHAPS MORE ON SUBSTANCE THAN ON FORM; EVEN THOUGH EYES HAVE BEEN MOSTLY ON THE LATTER), ROLE OF CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT IS COMPLICATING FACTOR--AS POINTED OUT IN REF C'S REPORT OF FRENCH REACTION. AS NOTED IN REFTEL A, CHAIRMAN GIEL WOULD LIKE TO RETAIN SOME ROLE AS POSSIBLE MEDIATOR ON DEBT RESCHEDULING. FURTHERMORE, GIEL'S LETTER AND AGENDA FOR MAY 17 MEETING (REFTEL B) IMPLIES MORE SUBSTANTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF FORMAL CONSORTIUM IN RESCHEDULING THAN WAS UNDERSTOOD AT TIME OF INFORMAL

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CONSORTIUM MEETING APRIL 28. IN PARTICULAR, QUESTION OF FUTURE CONSORTIUM ASSISTANCE (ITEM 4 OF AGENDA) COULD, IF NOT HANDLED RIGHT, BECOME LINKED WITH PROBLEMS OF DEBT RESCHEDULING, WHICH CREDITORS CLEARLY WANT TO CONSIDER AS ENTIRELY SEPARATE ISSUE. IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION TO MEET WITH CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT INFORMALLY, PERHAPS IN COURSE OF TUESDAY, MAY 16, OR MORNING OF MAY 17.

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